

Message Text

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61

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 SS-15

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /068 W

----- 039521

R 211435Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6073

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THEHAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, MT

SUBJ: CIVIL AVIATION: AIR MALTA TO EXPAND OPERATIONS

BEIRUT FOR RCAA

REF: VALLETTA 609, APRIL 1, 1974

1. AIR MALTA REPORTEDLY IS CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH BRITISH CALEDONIA AIRWAYS FOR THE SHORT TERM LEASE OF A BAC-111 AIRPLANE TO AUGMENT THE TWO BOEING 720B'S WITH WHICH AIR MALTA HAS OPERATED SINCE INITIATING SERVICE ON APRIL 1, 1974. THE BAC-111, A TWIN ENGINE JET WITH A PASSENGER CAPACITY OF ONE HUNDRED, WILL BE USED DURING THE PEAK SUMMER TOURIST SEASON ON CHARTER OPERATIONS AND ON AIR MALTA'S SHORTER SCHEDULED ROUTES TO ITALY AND LIBYA. THE ADDITIONAL JET WILL ENBABLE AIR MALTA TO EXPAND ITS NETWORK TO INCLUDE WEEKLY SERVICE TO AMSTERDAM AND BRUSSELS BEGINNING EARLY APRIL. AIR MALTA WILL ALSO INCREASE TO TWO THE NUMBER OF ITS WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO FRANKFURT. WITH THE ADDITION OF A THIRD AIRCRAFT, AIR MALTA HOPES TO INCREASE ITS SHARE OF THE RECORD TOURIST TRAFFIC EXPECTED TO VISIT MALTA IN 1975.

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2. THE FINANCIAL LOSS BY AIR MALTA IN ITS FIRST YEAR OF

OPERATIONS HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF
TO BE ABOUT LM700,000 (US DOLS 1,925,000).

3. COMMENT: INFORMED SOURCES CLAIM ACTUAL LOSSES BY AIR MALTA
DURING THE PAST YEAR WERE MORE NEARLY LM TWO MILLION (DOLS 5,500,000)

,
AND THAT LOSSES IN THE SECOND YEAR WILL PROBABLY BE EVEN HIGHER.
HOWEVER, THIS LATTER VIEW WAS EXPRESSED BEFORE IT WAS LEARNED THAT
MINTOFF HAS A NEW PLAN TO HALT CHARTER FLIGHTS BY NON-MALTESE
AIRLINES ORIGINATING IN MALTA (E.G., RETURN FLIGHTS FROM MALTA
TO THE UK, CANADA, ETC.), A MEASURE CALCULATED TO INCREASE
AIR MALTA'S POTENTIAL TRAFFIC AT THE EXPENSE OF THE CHARTER
OPERATORS.SMITH

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Message Attributes

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